

STATE OF NEW YORK

LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY

BUFFALO, NY, JUNE 27, 2020

*Celebrating the 41st Anniversary of Black Music Month and
Recognizing Sheila L. Brown (WUFO & Power 96.5 Owner),
The late Mack Luchey (Doris Records), The late Rick James and
716th Borough and Power 96.5's 2020 Buffalo Black Music Month Artists of the
Year, Griselda Records*

WHEREAS, *Black Music Month* is an annual celebration of African-American music in the United States. It was initiated on June 7, 1979, when President Jimmy Carter decreed that June would be the month of black music; and

WHEREAS, throughout American history, African-American music has reflected our nation's challenges and triumphs and has always enriched our Nation's culture; and

WHEREAS, throughout our community, Black Music Month continues to show its presence by way of local musical talent and professional influences, who have surfaced the dynamic worthy of such recognition and praise today; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. *Sheila L. Brown* has made history as the first African American woman in Buffalo to own and operate a radio station – WUFO 1080am; and

WHEREAS, she expanded access for the community with the addition of an FM channel, Power 96.5 which has ensured the continuity of the station and its service to the people who listen to it; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Brown's efforts to preserve and share African American history are legendary in addition to her relationship with WUFO Radio, a gem in our community and its growth and preservation are a testament to her commitment to the community; and

WHEREAS, the late *Mack Luchey*, a Hutch Tech graduate and pioneer in the music industry established Doris Records (located on East Ferry) in 1962; and

WHEREAS, Doris Records, the oldest record store in Buffalo became the perfect venue for African American artists to promote not only their musical records but also individuals with clothing lines and literature; and

WHEREAS, Luchey was a founding member of Men Allied for the Need to Understand Prostate Cancer and the Juneteenth Festival; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Luchey was inducted into the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame in 2008; and

WHEREAS, musician and singer, the late James Ambrose Johnson, Jr., better known as *Rick James* was born and raised nearby Doris Records in Buffalo, NY

WHEREAS, Rick James was nominated for three Grammy Awards, winning one as a co-writer for MC Hammer's song "U Can't Touch This" in 1991; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, James was inducted into the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Buffalo powerhouse *Griselda Records* did not start out as a record label, but as a clothing brand, Griselda by Fashion Rebels; and

WHEREAS, Griselda Records was founded in 2014 and was the creation of two brothers from Buffalo, Westside Gunn and Conway and in 2016, they added Buffalo rapper, Benny the Butcher, as well as Buffalo-born producers, Daringer and DJ Shay; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, Griselda signed a distribution deal with Shady Records for artists Westside Gunn and Conway. In 2019, Griselda signed a management deal with Roc Nation; and

WHEREAS, their first single, Dr Birds ,short for Buffalo's own, Doctor Bird's Caribbean Corner was their debut studio album which was released on November 29, 2019, by Griselda Records and Shady Records; and

WHEREAS, Griselda Records, local rap collective and record label, will be up for a nomination at this year's BET award for "Best Group"; and

WHEREAS, Griselda's nomination comes after years of major releases such as their critically acclaimed album *WWCD (What Would Chine Gun Do)* which was released in 2019 and their EP, *Don't Get Scared Now* from 2016; and

WHEREAS, upon release, *WWCD* debuted at number eight on the Billboard Rap Albums; and

WHEREAS, Griselda also performed on The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon and had their music video directed by legendary director, Hype Williams; and

WHEREAS, today, 716th Borough and Power 96.5 FM would like to present and recognize Griselda Records as the 2020 Buffalo Black Music Month Artists of the Year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby recognize *Black Music Month* and extend a well-deserved applause and to *Sheila L. Brown, the late Mack Luchey, the late Rick James and Griselda Records* and best wishes to Mrs. Brown and Griselda on each of their future musical and business ambitions with many more accolades to come.

Hon. Howard J. Johnson Jr.
Erie County Legislator, 1st District

Robert M. Graber
Clerk of the Legislature